



Strategy and Sustainability Division
MINISTRY FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE

DH CIRCULAR No.118/2010

DH 1926/2010

8th May 2010

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Switchover from Neo-Recormon® to Eprex®

Recombinant human erythropoietin given via the subcutaneous route, is indicated to treat anaemia of chronic kidney disease (pre-dialysis, haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis).

Erythropoietin Beta (Neo-Recormon®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units is no longer going to be available. Erythropoietin Alpha (Eprex®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units is going to be available instead.

Patients presenting with prescriptions for Neo-Recormon® can be dispensed Eprex® without any need of a change of prescription.

More frequent monitoring is encouraged during the switchover period.

In case of difficulty, the Consultant Nephrologist responsible for the patient should be contacted.

For your attention please.

Isabelle Zahra Pulis
obo Director General

Għażiż pazjent,

Nixtieq ninfirmak li l-mediċina Erythropoietin Beta (Neo-Recormon®) 2000 units, 3000 units u 4000 units mhix se tibqa' fuq il-Formularju tas-Servizzi tas-Saħħa tal-Gvern. Minflok, se jkun hemm Erythropoietin alfa (Eprex®) 2000 units, 3000 units u 4000 units. Iż-żewġ mediċini Neo-recormon® u Eprex® jiġu użati għat-trattament ta' l-anemija tiegħek.

Dawn il-punti li ġejjin għandhom jiġu meqjusa:

- Erythropoietin Beta (Neo-Recormon®) 2000 units, 3000 units u 4000 units mhux se jinstabu aktar fl-ispizeriji ta' l-isptarijiet tal-Gvern u l-ispizeriji ta' l-Għażla Tiegħek, iżda Erythropoietin alfa (Eprex®) 2000 units, 3000 units u 4000 units se jiġi provduti minflok.
- Id-doza ta' l-Eprex® ha tibqa' l-istess bhal Neo-Recormon®, u kif tkun miktuba fuq ir-ricetta mil Konsulent tiegħek.
- Testijiet tad-demmm xorta jibqgħu isiru biex titkejjel l-effett tat-trattament tiegħek.
- F'każ ta' xi diffikulta, ikkuntattja il-Konsulent tiegħek jew it-tobba tiegħu.

Dejjem tiegħek,

Dear Patient,

Please note that the medication Erythropoietin Beta (Neo-Recormon®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units is no longer going to be on the formulary of the Government Health Services. Instead, Erythropoietin alfa (Eprex®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units will be available. Neo-Recormon® and Eprex® are both used for the treatment of your anaemia.

The following points should be considered:

- Erythropoietin Beta (Neo-Recormon®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units will no longer be available from the government hospital pharmacies and Pharmacy of Your Choice, but Erythropoietin alfa (Eprex®) 2000 units, 3000 units and 4000 units will be available instead.
- The dosage of Eprex® remains the same as that of Neo-Recormon®, and as prescribed by your Consultant.
- Monitoring of the blood counts will continue to gauge the efficacy of your treatment.
- Please consult your Consultant or his medical team in case of difficulty.

Sincerely,
